

## **Idaho Wolf Management Progress Report, July 12-July 27, 2008**

### **News**

**Northern Rocky Mountain Wolf Status:** The U.S. Federal District Court in Missoula, Montana, issued a preliminary injunction on Friday, July 18, 2008, that reinstated temporary Endangered Species Act protections for gray wolves in the northern Rocky Mountains pending final resolution of the case. This includes all of Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming, the eastern one-third of Washington and Oregon, and parts of north-central Utah. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is evaluating legal options regarding the court's order and the ongoing litigation over the agency's delisting of the northern Rocky Mountain wolf population. All wolves in the southern half of Montana, south of Interstate-90 in Idaho, and all of Wyoming will be managed under the 2005 and 2008 Endangered Species Act nonessential experimental population 10j regulations. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game will once again act as the designated agent for the Fish and Wildlife Service in day-to-day management of wolves under a memorandum of understanding between the secretary of interior and governor of Idaho signed January 2006.

### **Monitoring**

Kari Holder of the Nez Perce Tribe verified reproduction for a pack in the northern part of the McCall zone, but was unable to see/hear pups. She then teamed up with David Ausband of the University of Montana to conduct a capture operation on the southern part of the same zone; a subadult female wolf was caught and radiocollared.

Isaac Babcock of the Nez Perce Tribe obtained a count of five gray pups on a pack on the Lochsa; he ran a trapline for several days but did not capture any wolves. He also walked in to the last Kelly Creek pack radio-collared wolf's aerial location, but there was no evidence that this was where the pups are located. He also attempted to investigate the Fish Creek suspected rendezvous site, but could not due to snow blocking access roads.

Carter Niemeyer of Idaho Fish and Game and Jim Holyan of the Nez Perce Tribe, upon request from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, captured and radio-collared the breeding female and probable alpha male in the first documented reproductive pack in Washington in many years. This pack is located east of the North Cascades near the Canadian border and has been DNA typed as coming from Canada.

Holyan ran a trap line on near Dworshak Reservoir where he was able to catch only a pup too small to radio-collar; he did observe two gray pups.

Michael Lucid of Idaho Fish and Game worked with several volunteers from the Selway Lodge using stock and volunteer help to trap the Selway Wilderness country.

July 13-19: Jason Husseman of Idaho Fish and Game and Dave Ausband free-range darted B350 to retrieve a failing GPS collar. This was the first wolf Fish and Game has darted from the ground – it is a very difficult feat to sneak up to within 20 yards of a wolf unnoticed and accurately shoot a dart.

July 20-26: Confirmed reproduction and breeding pair status (multiple pups heard howling) of a Sawtooth Zone wolf pack (Yankee Fork). Further attempts will be made to place a collar in this currently uncollared pack.

July 28: UofM research crew heard two adults and counted six black pups along the South Fork of the Payette to verify reproduction in a pack there.

### **Control**

Friday, July 11, U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services confirmed that wolves killed a calf on private land near Bear.

July 16, a WS fixed-wing aircrew shot and killed a gray male wolf about a mile from the depredation site near Bear. Traps are being pulled and control efforts are concluded unless there is another depredation.

July 14, WS confirmed that wolf killed a lamb in Rainbow Creek in the Boise National Forest.

July 23, WS shot and killed an adult, black female wolf near the rainbow creek depredation site.

July 14, WS confirmed that a wolf killed a lamb on the Boise National Forest, east of Smith's Ferry. This is the same area where WS confirmed a depredation on July 2.

July 15, WS confirmed that wolves attacked a cow on private land on Smiley Creek near Stanley.

July 15, WS confirmed that wolves killed one calf and probably killed another on a Targhee National Forest grazing allotment on the west side of Bishop Mountain between Ashton and Kilgore.

July 16, WS caught and killed an adult, gray female wolf.

July 18, WS confirmed that at least two wolves killed three rams on private land near Leadore.

July 18, a Fish and Game employee found a ram carcass on private land NE of Idaho City while he was looking for wolf-killed deer and elk. After consulting with WS, the depredation is being considered a probable wolf kill.

July 20, WS confirmed that wolves killed a calf and probably killed another calf on private land near Stanley.

July 22, WS examined three calves that had bite wounds to their flanks and hind quarters. WS confirmed that injuries were caused by wolves. All three calves are expected to survive. The depredation took place on the same private ranch where WS confirmed another depredation on a calf last week and subsequently removed one male wolf. There are still three pairs of cows/calves missing on this ranch.

July 22, WS confirmed that wolves killed five Walker hounds and one blue tick hound near Bridge Creek in Unit 12 in the Clearwater National Forest. The dogs were owned by three brothers, and the wolves killed every dog in the chase.

July 24, WS confirmed that wolves killed a calf on a Salmon-Challis National Forest grazing allotment near Twin Bridges Creek.

July 24, WS confirmed that wolves killed two lambs on a Boise National Forest grazing allotment in Rainbow Creek. WS has confirmed two other depredations at this site in the past several weeks.

July 25, WS investigated a report that wolves had killed a cow on private land near Stanley. The WS investigator saw two wolves chasing cattle. The carcass was consumed to the point where only a determination of "probable" wolf depredation could be made.

July 25, WS confirmed that wolves killed a 400-pound calf on private land just south of the Pine turn-off from Highway 20.

July 26, WS confirmed that wolves killed two calves and probably another on private land near Mullen Basin by Carey. Six calves are missing at this site.

July 26, WS confirmed that wolves killed three yearling ewes on a Boise National Forest grazing allotment west of Pioneerville.

July 26, WS confirmed that wolves killed a calf on private land on Cottonwood Creek, southeast of Horseshoe Bend. WS noted "probable" wolf depredations on this same property – a calf injured on July 18 and a cow killed on July 23.

July 26, WS confirmed two calves killed near Carlson Lake on a Salmon-Challis National Forest grazing allotment.

July 26, WS confirmed that wolves killed a cow and a calf on private land near Salmon.

### **Management**

The collaborative effort among several producers, Idaho Fish and Game, Wildlife Services, U.S. Forest Service, Blaine County Commissioners, and Defenders of Wildlife is ongoing in the Ketchum area. Nonlethal efforts involving use of fladry, penning at night, hazing with hired trained technicians are ongoing to reduce conflicts between wolves and sheep in the area.

### **Research**

Nothing new to report.

### **Information and Education**

July 18, Jason Husseman gave a presentation to about 30 folks at the Idaho Bowhunters gathering near Stanley.

Idaho Fish and Game reminds people that when wolves are in the area, please be aware that they may attack or injure dogs. It often helps to keep dogs in kennels or inside buildings at night and to not let them roam freely when humans are not around. When fresh wolf sign is found, place dogs on restraints and keep supervised. Federal law allows individuals to harass or kill a wolf attacking or molesting their livestock, domestic stock and dogs. If you are having concerns or problems with wolves close to your residence, please inform the Fish and Game Office nearest you.

Past wolf update publications are available for review on our wolf webpage and links along with all pertinent and updated wolf information and publications at: <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/cms/wildlife/wolves/>

Please help us manage wolves by reporting wolf sightings on our Fish and Game observation form found at: [http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/apps/wolf\\_report/](http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/apps/wolf_report/).